

Elbegdorj Tsakhia



"We should never take democracy for granted. Neither should we worship it. It must be nurtured and strengthened on a daily basis. It is our way of living, our state of mind."

Member of The Elders; Former President and Prime Minister of Mongolia who led his country's transition to democracy after the fall of the Soviet Union. An international campaigner on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, climate change and democracy.

- Drafted Mongolia's first democratic constitution, 1990
- Prime Minister of Mongolia, 1998 and 2004 – 2006
- President of Mongolia, 2009 – 2017
- Established the Asian Partnership for Democracy initiative, where he developed a plan on promoting civil society and advocating women's rights, particularly political rights, 2011
- Abolished the death penalty in Mongolia, 2016
- Joined The Elders, 2022

Elbegdorj Tsakhia is a public servant, a freedom fighter, and a policymaker from Mongolia. In 1990, he was one of the key leaders of the Mongolian Democratic Revolution and since then have continuously served Mongolia as a Member of Parliament four times, Prime Minister two times, and was elected President for two terms. Born in the isolated Western Mongolia as the youngest of eight sons from a humble traditional nomadic beginning he has worked as a machinist in a copper mine, a soldier and a journalist in the army newspaper.

As Prime Minister, Member of Parliament, and President, President Elbegdorj prioritized strengthening the rule of law in Mongolia, fostering social justice, fighting poverty, combating corruption, supporting environmental sustainability, and advancing active participatory democracy. He has also initiated and led many social, economic, and governance reforms.

Aiming to consolidate democracy in Asia, President Elbegdorj established the Asian Partnership for Democracy initiative within the confines of the Community of Democracies, the largest international organization that drives the global democracy agenda which Mongolia presided in 2011-2013. Under the chairmanship of Community of Democracies, Elbegdorj developed a plan on promoting civil society and advocating women's rights, particularly political rights.

Currently, President Elbegdorj is continuing his work to improve public policy, governance, and democracy through the Elbegdorj Institute, a think tank he found in 2008. During his tenure as President, he also focused on the impacts of climate change, air and soil pollution, the most significant public health issues in the capital of Mongolia. Through his Green Belt Foundation, he continues this work as well by bringing together multi-stakeholders to find novel solutions to these challenges. He also supports Mongolian studies and aims to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in Mongolia successfully.

President Elbegdorj is now Commissioner of the International Commission against Death Penalty (ICDP), Patron of the World Sustainable Development Forum (WSDF), Member of World Leadership Alliance – Club de Madrid and President of the World Mongol Federation.

President Elbegdorj holds Master of Public Administration from Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government (2002) and Bachelor's degree in Journalism from Land Forces Military Academy of Lviv of former USSR (1988).

